



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural
Activities 1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

February 18, 2021

Honorable Mayor and members of City Council

Re: This letter summarizes the Park and Recreation Commission's support for the redesign of Wilkes Street Park.

On February 18, 2021, the Park and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed the redesign of Wilkes Street Park. The Commission found that the Wilkes Street Park redesign will be a community asset, a place where people can gather, relax, and play. Further, the park encourages meaningful opportunities for recreation and access to open space within the City of Alexandria.

In its current state, Wilkes Street Park is a dated park, with no amenities. The park has been redesigned to transform the space and features a large multi-use path that meanders from east to west throughout the site. The pathway leads users through several park amenities such as a playspace, a nature interpretive area, a small plaza, a memorial garden, and a grassy field. The park also maintains many of the existing mature, hardwood trees. Each of these elements selected purposefully and intended to meet the needs of the surrounding community regardless of age or ability. The redesign provides the community multiple opportunities for connecting with nature, play, exploration, and rest, while also continuing to serve as an important multiuse path in the southwest quadrant of Old Town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gina Baum", is written over a blue ink smudge.

Gina Baum, Chair
Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Jack Browand, Acting Deputy Director, Park Planning
Judy Lo, Acting Principle Planner, Park Planning Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner II